★ ★ ★ CAN THE CELTICS REPEAT? ★ ★ ★

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 18
August 29, 1986

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CELTICS CRUISE THRU SUMMER

D.J. AND DWAYNE JOHNSON

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★ ★ ★ AT HOME WITH DANNY AINGE ★ ★ ★

THE ARENA

Nancy's Movin'

Nancy Parish's musical career has reached another stage this summer. Under the direction of Producer Michael Lovesmith and Manager Brian Panella, Parish has been in the recording studio which she and husband Robert Parish, center for the Celtics, built last year.

"It's required tremendous discipline and hard work," said Nancy Parish last week. She has been in the studio most days from early afternoon to past midnight.

Ironically, during the couple's vacation in Hawaii in late June, they saw Kenny Rodgers and his wife perform at a hotel there. They became fast friends.

Lovesmith, who has worked with Rhythm and Blues and Pop singers such as Diana Ross and Michael Jackson, has traveled frequently from Los Angeles to Boston this summer. They are planning to record a demo tape in late August and present it to record companies

A Final Word

In an interview with Mike Carey of The Boston Herald which appeared in the July 22nd edition of that paper, General Manager Jan Volk made a statement regarding the team's viewpoint about the tragedy.

"I certainly hope something positive would come out of a very tragic situation. Certainly in a situation as incredibly tragic as this one maybe someone who is tempted to experiment with drugs will learn and benefit from what has happened.

"The lessons to be learned are on several levels. First of all, for anyone inclined to be involved with drugs. It has to be very obvious that cocaine can kill. Whatever benefits there are perceived to be from using, these benefits are entirely illusory and not worth the risks.

"Illicit drug use is a major problem in our society today and professional sports is no more immune to that problem than is any other section of society. I personally have no idea of the extent of that problem within the NBA as the Len Bias tragedy is the only direct contact with the problem that the Celtics have encountered. Even one drug problem is, however, too many. I would hope that the NBA and the Players Association will be able to modify and refine the current drug agreement in order to make it even more effective."

"I don't think there is anything that could have been done prior to the draft. We may be surprised to hear revelations made to the Grand Jury regarding his background. However, at this point in time I have heard nothing about him or his conduct prior to the draft which was inconsistent with the knowledge we had at the time we drafted him. If such revelations were to be made to the Grand Jury, it would no doubt be because the jury has investigative powers well in excess of powers available to us. In our view, Len Bias was the best player in the draft and the player we wanted for the Celtics.

Future Issues Schedule

ISSUE 19 — MAILED - Aug. 25
ISSUE 20 — MAILED - Sept. 29
ISSUE 1 (VOL. 2) — MAILED - Oct. 13
ISSUE 2 (VOL. 2) — MAILED - Oct. 27
ISSUE 3 (VOL. 2) — MAILED - Nov. 10
ISSUE 4 (VOL. 2) — MAILED - Nov. 24

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AUGUST 29, 1986

Cover...

The entire Celtics family is taking a well deserved vacation from basketball. Many went on the Celtics cruise through the Carribean. Celtics G.M. and photography fanatic, Jan Volk captured Dennis Johnson and his son Dwayne playing golf on the sea.

Features...

4 ..... *Celtics Cruise*
Relaxation was the key word for all the Celtics and their fans who went on the Celtics cruise in June.

6 .. *At Home with Danny Ainge*
Off the court Danny is very relaxed and completely satisfied with his family and their home in Wellesley Hills.

9 .... *Celtics Summer Vacations*
Most of the Celtics got completely away from basketball at least for a short while.

10 ..... *Celtics Rookie Camp*
Annually the Celtics take a preview look at the incoming rookies and free agents. This year Brandeis is the location.

15 ..... *Carlos Clark*
Former Celtic Carlos Clark is trying hard to get back into the NBA.

16 ..... *Can the Celtics Repeat?*
No team in the NBA has been able to repeat as champion since the Celtics did it eighteen years ago.

18 ..... *Bill Walton Got What He Wanted*
It took a while, but Bill Walton is back on top- right where he belongs.

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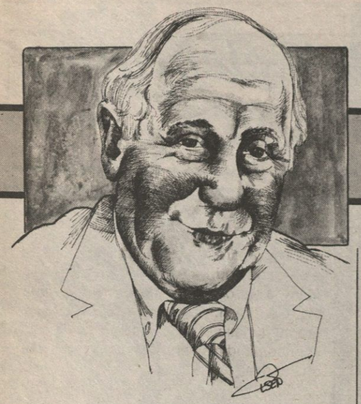


Ask Red Auerbach

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: I am the all-time greatest Robert Parish fan. How do you rate him in the league today and also in Celtics history? Do you feel he has the chance to be a Hall of Famer?

Bruce Melanson, Tampa, Florida

RED'S ANSWER: There is no question that Robert Parish is one of the best centers in the league today. Three championships in his six years with the Celtics are all the testimony needed to verify that. Since we traded for Robert, we have had a stability at the center position that only a couple of other teams can equal. And with Bill Walton on the team now and Robert is getting a chance, late in his career -- just when he needs it -- We can expect several more good years out of Robert. Not only is he a fine player, but he's a Celtic in every sense -- a family man and a fine individual. As to whether or not Robert will make the Hall of Fame, well, I really can't say. Certianly, his record has been a fine one, but many fine players get shortchanged when it comes to entry into the Hall. Tom Heinsohn, a great player and coach, just got in last year, after 20 years since retiring as a player and almost 10 since coaching.

QUESTION: Would you agree that, if it weren't for his numerous career injuries, Bill Walton would be mentioned in the same breath with the other great all-time centers?

Joe Vinarski, Pittsburgh, Pa.

RED'S ANSWER: I believe that, despite his injuries, Bill Walton still deserves to be placed alongside the greatest centers in the league's history. Admittedly, his injuries have limited the time we've been able to watch him display his talents; still, the overall extent of his abilities place him among the best. Passing, rebounding, defense -- Walton has them all.

QUESTION: What do you think of Dallas' Detlef Shrempf as a player? Would you be interested in bringing him to the Celtics?

James Hartman, Jr., Warren, Ohio

RED'S ANSWER: I've always liked Detlef Shrempf as a player. And like any good player in the league, I'm sure we could fine a place for him here. But, the Mavericks have a very well-run organization and would certainly not let a player of Shrempf's ability get away. You don't get something for nothing in the NBA.

QUESTION: To a coach, what is the difference between a 20-second timeout and a full timeout? What is the limitation on players entering the game after a 20-second timeout?

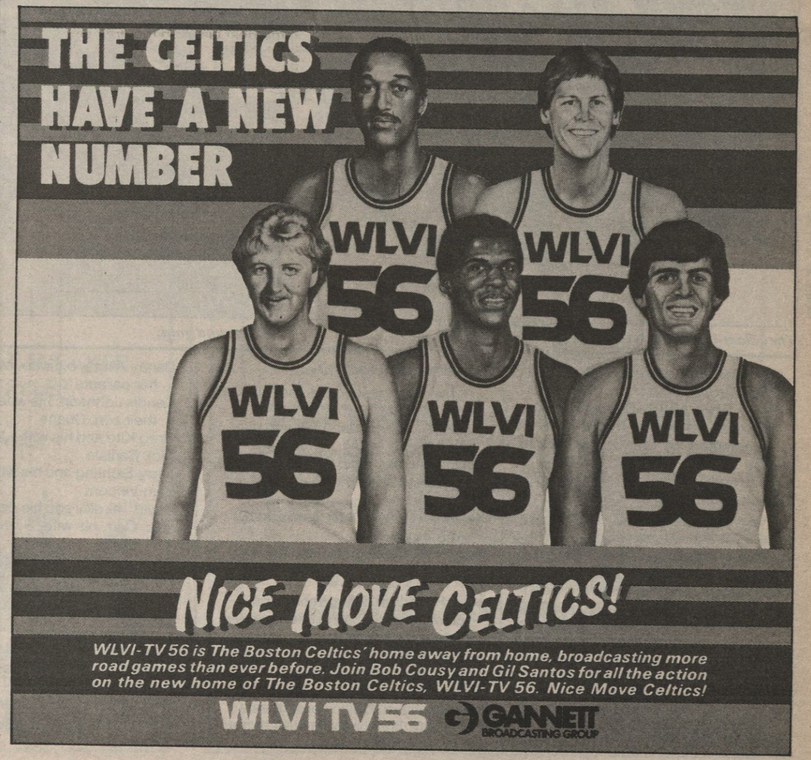
Christine Kitses, Lawrence, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: As you probably know, the present 20-second timeout is what used to be called an injury timeout. Essentially to avoid teams faking injuries to get an extra timeout, the NBA allotted each team one 20-second timeout per half. Coaches use them when they've got something to tell their teams that doesn't require a full timeout, when they've noticed something that requires just a quick correction. As far as substitutions go, the policy is that the team calling the 20-second timeout can make a single substitution during the 20-second timeout; if they do, in fact, replace a player, the other team can also do so. If they don't bring in a substitute, the opponent can't either.

QUESTION: During the regular season the Celtics always play home games on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. During the playoffs, they seemed to play many games on Tuesday and Thursday. Why?

Matthew Thompson, St. Albans, West Virginia

RED'S ANSWER: While arranging our schedule for the regular season, we obviously have to structure things around the available dates in the Boston Garden. The Garden is a very busy building, with us, the Bruins, circus, ice shows and all the other events staged there, and we've worked things out over recent years so that we can continue playing our regular-season games on the days you mentioned. During the playoffs, however, there are fewer conflicts than during the regular-season and our only possible conflict is with the Bruins. And since their playoffs start earlier than ours and since they've been unfortunate to have been eliminated early the past couple of years, we've had our choice of available dates. The league schedules playoff games with very little advance notice, so we play them when it's necessary.

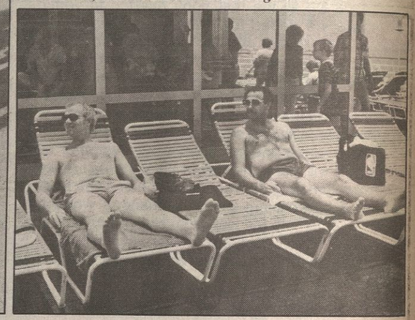


Celtics Cruise was a One-Week Celebration of A Championship Season

They slam-dunked a few golf balls.

They found gold.

The Fords, the Volks and the Rodgers.



Always scouting.

Photos by Jan Volk

It was the perfect ending to a perfect season.

The 1986 Boston Celtics Cruise brought most of the members of the Celtics family aboard the S/S Norway, the world's largest cruise ship, for a memorable week-long cruise in the Caribbean.

Leaving from Miami, Florida on June 21st and returning on the 28th, the cruise featured stops at four ports -- Nassau, St. Thomas, St. Maarten and Sturrup Cay, a private island owned by the cruise line. But exciting as the stops at the ports were, some of the best of the week's activities came aboard the ship itself, when the people accompanying the Celtics ate their meals with them, joined them at two private cocktail parties, participated with them in a shipboard Olympics day, and generally socialized with each other.

The Celtics aboard the Norway were:

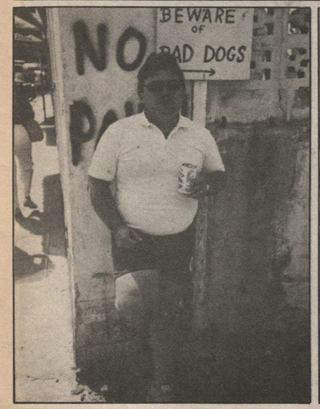
General Manager Jan Volk and his wife, Lissa
Assistant Coach and Player Personnel Director Jim Rodgers and his wife, Donna
Assistant Coach Chris Ford and his wife, Kathy
Trainer Ray Melchiorre and his wife, Liz

Vice-President of Marketing and Communications Tod Rosensweig and his wife, Gloria
Johnny Most, the Voice of the Celtics, and three of his children
Glenn Ordway, Most's color commentator on Celtics broadcasts, his wife Christine and three-month-old daughter, Amanda.
Danny Ainge, his wife, Michelle, and her parents
Dennis Johnson, his wife, Donna, and their son, Duane
Greg Kite and his wife, Jenny
Rick Carlisle
Jerry Sichting and his wife, Joni
Sam Vincent
David Thirdkill and his daughter
M.L. Carr, his wife, Sylvia, and son, Michael
Jerry Walsh, the General Manager of WLVI (Channel 56), the station that broadcasts the Celtics road games, his wife, Bernadette, and children, Peter and Susan
Dan Griffin, the General Manager of WRKO Radio, the Celtics station, and his wife, Dory
Michael Wheeler, General Sales Manager of WRKO, and his wife, Estelle

The mastermind behind the cruise was Mary Dutra, the owner of Four Seasons Travel, the official travel agency of the Celtics. A marketing campaign that utilized advertising on WRKO-Radio, WLVI-TV and *Celtics Pride*, as well as a series of "Cruise Nights" throughout Massachusetts, was organized and implemented by her agency, resulting in sales that exceeded even her expectations.

Everyone on the cruise, Celtics and fans alike, proclaimed it one of the best vacations they had ever had. It appears certain that this cruise established a precedent; it was just the first of many Celtics cruises to come.

When plans for the 1987 Celtics cruise are finalized, you'll hear about it first in *Celtics Pride*.



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At Home with Danny Ainge: A Different Ballgame

Danny Ainge sat back in the comfort of his spacious den last week and talked about the past. "My sources of inspiration growing up were my older brothers and my father in the beginning. My oldest brother was four years ahead of me in school, an all-state athlete in Eugene, Oregon where we grew up. Then, my next oldest brother followed in his footsteps so naturally I had similar goals. I idolized my father and brothers...

"Then in high school what carried me was my love for sports. Football, basketball, baseball---whatever was in season. Yeah, ever since then, it's been the love of the game."

Danny Ainge's rise to prominence, insists Coach K.C. Jones, is what proved to be the decisive factor in the past season's Celtics crown. Ainge's rise to stardom was hard fought; he signed with the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team while an All-American in basketball at Brigham Young. He was married to Michelle Ainge as a sophomore in college, he was attempting to juggle two of the grandest professions in our culture. And at age twenty, he was a father.

While Ainge talks of the ambiguous past moments which turned out happily, upstairs, his three children (daughter Ashley, 6 and sons Austin, 4 and Tanner, 2) were standing on the porch of the Ainges' lovely three story colonial home in Wellesley Hills. The children were looking out into a beautiful green summer vista of oak, maple, and sumac trees. A cool breeze ironically swept through the hot summer morning.

Michelle and Tanner join Danny

Michelle couldn't be happier.

Ainge walked through the lower level of his home that morning. He isn't a man to reflect much, except to understand where his present life is taking him. He was asked about the genuine uncertainty of the past.

"It's like being criticized for poor play, now. I tried to deal with it, not worry about it excessively. I have a philosophy: work as hard as I can and don't look back. Especially now that I have a family. They're the most important people alive to me. No professional success can compensate for failure in the home anyway."

Michelle Ainge met Danny Ainge on the couple's first day of class at Brigham Young (a Health class). She's a communications major who decided during college to have a family when the couple married during their sophomore year. Trips to Danny's NCAA tourney games and the full-time role of motherhood became an occupation during the typical preparatory college years. Michelle researced the area when the Ainges purchased their present home, a sixty-year old structure which was completely rebuilt with a new water and heating system. "She did it," claimed Danny earlier this season. "She spent months evaluating the cost of new homes compared to an older home which might have a higher value."

"This home was perfect for us," said Michelle as she led a writer and photographer through the recently purchased house. "It has room for the family, it has quality construction, a perfect driveway for the kids to ride their bikes, and it's in a quiet neighborhood."

Apart from the traditional separation of male and female roles in a marriage, athletes' wives and families endure further stresses. The public figure in the family is coveted by an admiring fandom. "It's demanding," stated Michelle Ainge. I think people don't understand that when Danny is asked to make an appearance, in reality, his whole family is adjusting to the fact that he is away from the home. It's what makes this a job in some ways.

"And it is difficult to simply go out to a movie. We gave up last week. It's understandable that people want to touch a player, claim they know him, talk to him. But for us, sometimes...well, we are the ones they look at, stare at. Sometimes we do need to be more protective of our space."

"I think it's easier when you have kids. It helps you socially. You can't close the doors because the kids' friends are constantly coming and going. You have to be normal. You can't be a celebrity."

Danny with Tanner, 2 years old.

Here's Ashley, 6 years old.

Austin, 4 years old.

"It's tough," said Danny Ainge discussing the difficulties of keeping marriage strong and vital when he's in the public spotlight. "There are times when my mind's so much on the game. It's hard and there are times when the occupation is overly demanding. Particularly during the playoffs...I keep saying it's only a month and a half where all my energy is focused on that aspect of my life.

"In my (Mormon) religion and in my family, I've realized how important it is to have a balance in life. That success is measured in basketball, but that it's also accounted for in mental sharpness, socially, and spiritually. I tried to take responsibility for that early: when I was being recruited, I chose Brigham Young because I realized it would be much easier to accomplish my goals if the people around me had similar lifestyles and values.

"Perhaps it's a cliche to say I want to live in the present. But I see it this way: I work very hard for the Celtics because I like the people I play with, the coaches I play for, the owners I work for, Red. It's reasonably easy to grow and improve in this type of situation."

The Ainges' home features a fine balance, too: there are the pleasures of modern technology (big-screen television, modern kitchen, computer) and elegance of oak furniture (for example, a grand piano, a full length mirror). It's a peaceful, beautiful, and comfortable place. "But I'll tell you," said Danny. "It's easier to sit back and enjoy this place --anyplace--when you've accomplished your goals as a team. Professionally, all this becomes significantly more worthwhile."

The uncertainties of yesterday are at a distance now for Danny Ainge. He now has two championship rings and he did indeed star last season. "I think the key for me is having responsibility on the floor. Our front court is so talented it's easy to do the minimum in the backcourt. But I play best when I handle the ball more."

Ainge's game has circled back from his Brigham Young years, when he was regarded by some pro scouts as a guard equivalent to Larry Bird. That's meaningful: the Ainges have achieved this as a family, begun as a collegiate couple trying to climb the ladder in one of the partner's chosen profession. In pro sports, the careers have definite beginnings and endings. The Ainges have arrived safely.

They headed for Switzerland---not to trace roots (Danny is French-English; Michelle is Danish-Welsh)---but for their first trip to Europe on vacation. But Danny doesn't stay away from the playing fields.

"We went on the cruise immediately after the season had ended and I thought I'd be away from the game for a long time. But one day into the trip, I was on a court with a bunch of guys on the cruise, playing pickup playground basketball, sailing on the sea."

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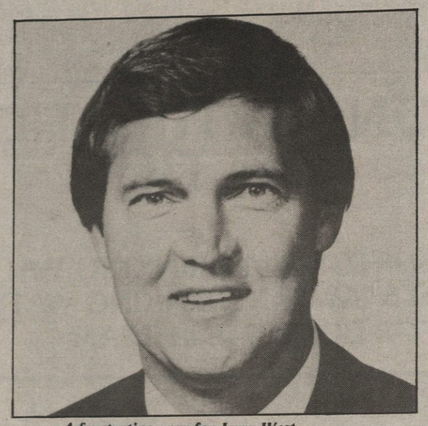
Innerview

Jerry West: Wants to Get Back on Top

One of the greatest players ever to grace the NBA hardwood is former Los Angeles Lakers guard Jerry West. Known as "Mr. Clutch" for his ability to make key baskets when his team needed them, West spent 14 years in the NBA (1960-61 to 1973-74) all with the Lakers.

West quickly became a star in the NBA, averaging 30.8 points a game in his sophomre season. By the time he was done, West had been a 14-time All-Star which included being picked for the NBA All-Star first team 10 straight years. He had ammassed 25,192 points and 2,435 assists and was named to the Hall of Fame in 1979 and to the NBA's 35th Anniversary All-Time team in 1980.

Three years before his induction to the Hall of Fame, West became coach of the Lakers. Even thought he readily admits he never felt comfortable on the bench, West stayed at the helm three years and led the team to the playoffs every year.



A frustrating year for Jerry West.

Today, West is the general manager of the Lakers, a position he has held for several seasons. The West Virgina University product has earned high marks for his front-office performance as well.

Celtics Pride talked to West recently.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did the Lakers make out in the draft?

WEST: It's too early too tell what the draft is going to do for us. We got players who might be of use to us in the future, a couple of years down the line.

CELTICS PRIDE: You were able to get Lousville's Billy Thompson in a trade. What is it about Thompson that impresses you?

WEST: He came from one of the better programs in the country and Crum is one of the better coaches in the country. What's impressive about Louisville is they win. That combines good coaching and talent. If you look at the Louisville players, they don't have really impressive numbers. But they have talent and know how to play.

CELTICS PRIDE: The Lakers gave up a pretty valuable player in Mike McGee to get Thompson. Why?

WEST: McGee was a fine scorer. We made a deal based on what we need to do to improve ourselves. We needed to move up in the draft, which we did.

CELTICS PRIDE: Where do the Lakers stand now?

WEST: We have a fine ballclub. You always like to see the club improve, but I'm not sure how much we'll improve. We can still play with the best teams in the league.

CELTICS PRIDE: The Lakers won over 60 games last year. How can you get much better than that?

WEST: Hopefully, we can get better, although we can't get much better. We'd like to make the team better.

CELTICS PRIDE: What happened in the Western Conference finals against the Rockets?

WEST: Houston outplayed us for a week.

CELTICS PRIDE: Is it annoying that people ask you what's wrong with the Lakers, even though the team won so often during the season and has been dominant the past few years?

WEST: That part of sports makes it so intriguing and frustrating. Our expectation level is like the Celtics. If they don't win, there's always something wrong. It is frustrating-- we did have a great year! We were really bothered by nagging injuries all year long. We weren't as healthy as we would have liked to have been. We had a great year we just didn't get it accomplished.

CELTICS PRIDE: Is Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ever going to retire?

WEST: He's something, isn't he. It takes a remarkable player and person to play at that peak and maintain his competitive level. It's been a year-to-year thing with him the last couple of seasons. He's stated that this (1986-87) is going to be his last year. We'll have to wait and see. We have to be concerned with one day filling his void, no question about it. But you're not going to find another center like that.

CELTICS PRIDE: Speaking of centers, the Cleveland Cavaliers seemed to help themselves by getting Brad Daugherty.

WEST: Cleveland did a nice job. They chose some quality players, even with getting Mark Price on the second round. They did things which will bear fruit for years. Ron Harper is going to be a fine player and Daugherty will help them too. And their general manager, Wayne Embry, is well-respected. You have to give the people in that organization credit. They made some very positive moves.

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Celtics Spread Out for Summer

Larry Bird walked outside of his mother's home in French Lick, Indiana last week. He hadn't touched a basketball for three weeks. He was feeling the urge, though, to play again. To resume.

"Larry loves a challenge," reflected Mrs. Georgia Bird who was finishing the dinner dishes. The challenge: several playground performers wagered that Bird couldn't sink an improbably long-distance shot. From the out-of-bounds area underneath the opposite basket, 94 feet away, Bird was challenged to make a full-court shot. Yes. He did make the shot.

Naturally the players were stunned, as if their eyes had played a trick on them. Is seeing disbelieving? They bet he couldn't do it a second time.

Again, Bird scored the goal.

The Boston Celtics players are enjoying this summer, an off-season immediately following their record-shattering championship year. The players have dispersed across the country---from Danny Ainge in Wellesley Hills to David Thirdkill in Phoenix and Bill Walton in San Diego, where he insists he himself is "a rumor", seen walking on the beach, or on a boat, "somewhere."

Depending on status of the player, their activities are different. Larry Bird has begun playing again, but only light practice. But Rick Carlisle has played frequently, scrimmaging at Boston College weekday afternoons and planning personal practice sessions during July and August. Several Celtics and coaches were contacted recently by Celtics Pride to give an off-season update on their off-seasons.

Coach **K.C. Jones** has been conducting his camp in Vermont this summer after spending time with his family, first on the post-season cruise and on vacation locally. **Jimmy Rodgers,** the team's Director of Player Personnel and Assistant Coach, has enjoyed the time away from the daily rigors of practice and games. "But I've had some catching up to do both on Celtic business and personal matters. We have vacationed, though, in Barnstable on Cape Cod, and on various one-day excursions. I love to fish, but I haven't had much time yet. We're also beginning to handle the business of recruiting for my son Matt, who is entering his last year as quarterback on the Walpole High School football team."

Among the players, **Rick Carlisle, Greg Kite,** and **Sam Vincent** have kept most active on the court. Carlisle has relaxed by taking three weeks off completely from the game. "I realized I better get away from it after last year," said the third-year pro. Last year Carlisle played in three leagues, went to the late August Rookie Camp, and began Pre-Season camp three weeks after that.

"This year I've relaxed by playing the piano, giving lectures at camps in Wayland and Sudbury (MA), and doing some promotions."

But Carlisle has played most days after his three week hiatus and plans to play in the Los Angeles Summer League in early August. Kite has similar plans; he played in a Brigham Young vs. Nevada Las Vegas Alumni game in late June, and has tentative plans to play in Los Angeles, and in a league in Utah. "We take time for family in the summer though," said Kite. Greg and Jenny Kite and their children accordingly will visit Orlando to see Jenny's family and Houston to be with Greg's parents. They also were on the cruise in late June.

Vincent gave several clinics for Spot-Bilt in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Boston after the cruise. Vincent found time to take a three credit course at Michigan State in Financial Management "because I realized I needed some idea of business after being a pro this year." But he plans to play in Los Angeles and in the Celtics rookie camp in early August. Then, a week's vacation in Las Vegas.

Each player has gotten a well deserved rest.

Established veterans have a different routine. **Dennis Johnson** has remained in Boston for most of the summer as he, Donna Johnson and son Dwayne purchased a home in Lexington. "It's a funny thing," said DJ last week. "I don't consciously plan to begin working out for the 'next' season. My body just seems to do it on its own. Then, suddenly, I realize I've begun training again."

The Johnsons, according to Donna Johnson, plan to get back to the West to visit both of their families later in the off-season. Dennis has been to several concerts, including a Concert on the Commons event featuring Stephanie Mills and Jermaine Jackson.

"When **Larry Bird** and **Bill Walton** get on the court together," reflects Jones, "there's a certain chemistry out there. One makes a clever pass, and the other is moving toward it instinctively. Then, the next time down, they may reverse roles. Sometimes, their play reached another dimension." Bird returned to the heartland after the season ended, Walton to the sea. "We've been doing everything outdoors imaginable," said Susan Walton last week. "Lying on the beach (They prefer Mission Beach near their San Diego home), tennis, surfing. Getting as much sun as possible. Bill Walton has been working on weights, playing volleyball, and doing "anything competitive.

Walton "wants to come into camp the strongest I've ever felt at the start of a season. The novel situation for me at this time of my career is that each year I move further away from my total inactivity (1979-82), the more confident I feel." The Waltons plan to return to Cambridge in early September.

Bird has been away from the game through the early part of the summer, but playing in several golf tournaments and running has sustained his conditioning. Most mornings, Bird runs considerable distances. Also, he has vacationed in Hawaii (the reward for winning the 3-Point Field Goal Contest at the All-Star Game in February). He waterskis often at nearby Lake Potuka.

Danny Ainge and **Kevin McHale** have remained similarly active but have spent much needed time catching up with their families. Kevin and Lynn McHale are expecting their third child later this year. They have split time between their new home in Boston and Hibbing, Minnesota, where Kevin has been fishing, playing golf, and renewing his friendships with people in Hibbing. Ainge and his wife Michelle went on the cruise in late June, spent time designing their recently purchased house in Wellesley Hills, and then vacationed in Switzerland for two weeks in late July.

"I love basketball," says Ainge. "Even playing 82 games, the playoffs. I thought that might be too many basketball games when I first started playing ball."

"But I need to be involved...I still love baseball. I wish I could be playing for the Red Sox right now."

Jerry Sichting and his family returned to Indianapolis after the championship. Jerry returned east to do K.C. Jones' basketball camp in late July. **Scott and Kim Wedman** went back to Kansas City; Wedman reported that his broken ribs have fully healed and he has begun running again after having heel surgery in late June. Scotty went to a cabin in the Ozarks for a week in mid-July, without any telephone or TV.

"It was great." He stated, reflecting on getting away from the spotlight.

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Celtics Host 1986 Rookie Camp

The Celtics hosted their annual Rookie Camp, this year at Brandeis University, on Saturday, August 2nd. Formerly the camp was held at Camp Millbrook in Marshfield, which recently was sold, and the new arrangement at Brandeis was worked out by General Manager Jan Volk and Jeff Cohen, director of Athletics at the school. Cohen worked for the Celtics for 16 years, including seven as vice president.

"The facility is ideal in terms of what it offers on campus and its location," said Volk.

The Celtics will add more players to the rookies scheduled to play in the camp. Draft choices from the previous selection who will play include 4th round choice Tony Benford (6-3 Guard, Texas Tech); 5th round choice Dave Colbert (6-8 Forward, Dayton); Greg Wendt (6-6 Forward University of Detroit); and Tom Ivey (6-8 Forward, Boston University).

According to Ed Badger, Benford is a very active player, physical, and defensive-oriented. Colbert is coming off a heel injury but has been regarded highly by scouts through much of his college career. He averaged 17.3 ppg in his career at Dayton. Wendt is also a defensive-minded player but he did average 13.9 ppg last year. Ivey, like Wendt, played out of position much of his career, according to Scout Rick Weitzman. "He's a natural forward," said the scout of Ivey, who played center for BU. The Celtics traditionally take a New England player, but Weitzman thinks Ivey is a fine player.

"New players coming in will have to show something. But that is possible."

The chances of landing free agents are limited somewhat by players' commitments in Los Angeles and/or Europe.

"In all likelihood, there won't be any astounding players in camp," said Rodgers. "Although Len Bias' permanent absence does force us to reconsider things, and the upcoming camp is a time to begin assessing ideas."

The rookie camp is viewed as a preliminary time to begin evaluating the makeup of the team.

"You are always problem-solving," said Rodgers. "It's still pretty early to make concrete judgements about what your needs are and how these compare to other teams' needs."

Veterans also are expected to play in the camp. Last year, Danny Ainge and Rick Carlisle played. Carlisle, Vincent, and Greg Kite likely will play in the camp which will likely run through August 5th. Evening scrimmages are open to the public at a nominal charge.

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K.C.s Corner

Some Random Reflections...

We're having a pleasant summer this year. Strange and funny how winning the team championship transforms tasks you normally do anyway into happier occasions. As I write this, my family (my wife Ellen and our son Christopher) are preparing to travel to Spain and to Switzerland. We genuinely need this time together; in any profession, I suspect, there are times when you have to travel away, gain some peace and perspective.

The slow season is a time for random reflections. I offer some of mine briefly.

Bias: A tragedy. I think the entire Celtics organization endures feelings of grief and loss. We were very impressed with Len Bias as a young man. I was only able to speak with him personally on a few occasions and he seemed to be very coachable and the type of young player who was willing to fit in with our team. Our team will miss him.

I coach young men now who are the age of my son Kip. I observe Kip as he begins a career in hotel management. The young man with hopes, ambitions, ideas...I feel deeply saddened for Len Bias' family.

Trading: I feel differently about some of the transactions, especially the Moses Malone deal. If a team has a Moses Malone I think its vital the team nurture his great talent. Make him feel important, valued; because players such as Moses Malone work hard every night, care deeply for the team (opposed to personal statistics). A superstar such as Moses Malone will go ten extra miles for the team. If he's bullied in the press, he might sulk. Factions result. It may appear that Moses Malone was playing less hard than he previously had. But what prompted him to lose that extra edge from his incentive? Perhaps it was reading criticisms of his play from the owner daily. I believe Moses Malone will play great in Washington.

Philadelphia will continue to be formidable but they are different now. Jeff Ruland, Roy Hinson, and Cliff Robinson are all great players but there is some element of uncertainty for that club (Andrew Toney's status is unknown at this writing, for example). Milwaukee has to be helped by the addition of Jack Sikma. In 1979-80 and 1980-81, the Bucks made their best challenges after they obtained Bob Lanier from the Detroit Pistons. Sikma adds a similar dimension to the Bucks. He's a veteran, he's intelligent, he has championship experience, and he'll be internally motivated to prove the trade was a good one.

Summer Camps: We had our annual summer camp in Vermont last month. Again there were many kids, again there were many pro players (Jerry Sichting, Rick Carlisle, M.L. Carr) along to teach pointers. We try to emphasize similar ideas in basketball, conditioning, and the athletic life.

1. **Dedication.** For a young player to succeed, the young man or woman must want to dedicate their time to perfect their chosen skills.

2. **Responsibility.** Coaches and or teachers may guide and educate. But the young person himself has the responsibility to work on his own. In any field in life, it's the extra time that a person puts into his work which makes the difference. The person has the responsibility to do this. No one else can do it for him.

3. **Fun.** Sports and fun practically define each other. Enjoyment should guide the young person's practices and games. Coaches have the responsibility to see that youngsters enjoy their games in formal and informal games. Pressure tactics simply do not belong for the young athlete. Sports should be relaxing, exercising the mind in a way different than the youth's other activities.

4. **Conditioning.** Take care of your body! Eat sensibly, take proper fluids during workouts, get enough rest. And say no to drugs.

Celtics. I talked briefly above about the underlying uncertainty pervading the 76ers for next season. I do not wish to compare the two organizations (The Celtics have had their share of uncertainty regarding ownership in the past). But here we have a special feeling, a culture which isn't always verified by the number of championships you win. Our franchise is stung, hurt, and defeated when we do not win. But we have maintained an integrity of purpose within the Celtics family ever since I have been here. It's founded on a trust in talent and in character, in my opinion.

We believe in our talented people; Bill Russell and Larry Bird are two of the greatest to ever play the game and I feel they were and are because the Celtics have no jealousy of their unique capabilities. Don't begrudge your investment in these players! Allow them the time and the creative space to make them want to continue to improve and to help the team become greater along with the individual superstar.

In turn, I suscribe to the statement made by our General Manager Jan Volk when he backed up our selection of Len Bias in the draft. We believed in the type of person Len Bias was and what we saw him as potentially becoming as a member of the Celtics family. Human beings are not perfect. We think Len Bias was at heart a good human being as well as a great athlete. He would have fit in well here, for us and for himself.

Tourists in the True Sense of the Word!

Discovered shopping in St. Thomas in late June were two all-time Celtics greats, K.C. Jones and Dave Cowens. Although not aboard for the Celtics cruise, the two were visiting St. Thomas at the same time as the Norway docked there, and a reunion of sorts was held.

M. L. Carr

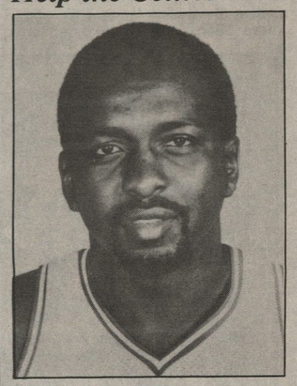
No One Will Be Out to Help the Celtics

You've got to look at this year's draft for the number of high prospects. There were a lot of good players coming out. You've got to think that several teams bettered themselves with all the big guys who were available. There were a lot of quality players and a few sleepers, too.

Chris Washburn, drafted third by the Golden State Warriors, is one example. I think he has a lot of natural talent. People may have been a little frightened of him because of some of the problems he had in school, but maybe he was getting some of that boyishness out of him and has matured. If he does, he'll be unbelievable.

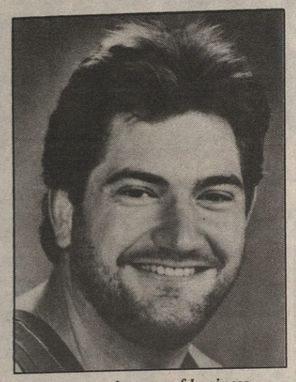
William Bedford is definitely a quality player-- he's like Robert Parish. He runs the floor well and is a good player-- a quality player.

Cleveland did well by getting Brad Daugherty and making him the league's first pick. The Cavaliers have improved themselves quite a bit. There's always excitement generated when you have the top draft pick. Cleveland's new coach, Lenny Wilkins, will have to go out and get these guys thinking they are a legitmate team and not also rans.



Bad idea to trade Moses.

What about the 76er trades? Trading Moses Malone down the street--- to another team in the same division-- doesn't sound like a good idea, but there aren't a lot of teams willing to take Moses' salary. But Moses is still marketable-- he'll be a force for a long time. He hasn't lost it.



Ruland can take care of business.

When you look at that trade, you have to look at it from a business side, too. The Sixers figure that Malone is more marketable now than he will be two years down the line. The trade was surprising, but you have to look at it from the total standpoint.

Philadelphia got Jeff Ruland, Cliff Robinson and Roy Hinson (the latter from Cleveland in the Daugherty trade) so they have three quality players up front. The argument will be they don't have a legitmate center, but I think with those three guys, that's enough to take care of business.

I'd have to say Philly is a better team now-- you can't write them off.

* * * * *

No team in the NBA has won back-to-back championships in almost 20 years, but I think this Celtics team is the one to do it-- I say that without reservation. Barring serious injuries, the Celtics can do it.

Everything is in place-- there are no contract squabbles-- they took care of that stuff a long time ago-- and K.C. Jones has been here three years.

I don't think the death of Len Bias will have a devastating effect on the team immediately, but it will have a long-term effect. He was going to be one of the cornerstones for the future. He would have made some strong contributions this year.

It is time for the Celtics to start thinking about the future. It is an older team, and K.C. Jones, Jan Volk and everyone else understand that. Robert Parish and Bill Walton are in their 30s and playing great ball, but this is an older team. The key players are getting older.

I'm sure the Celtics will make some moves in the future to get some younger players. But no one is going to help build the Celtics up. I'm sure they'll come up with something.

Boston Celtics
1986 Pre-Season Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Site
Fri.,	October 10	Philadelphia 76'ers	Boston Garden
Sat.,	October 11	Washington Bullets	Baltimore, MD
Tue.,	October 14	Washington Bullets	Providence C.C.
Fri.,	October 17	Houston Rockets	Hartford, C.C
Mon.,	October 20	Detroit Pistons	Worcester Centrum
Wed.,	October 22	Indiana Pacers	Terre Haute, IN
Fri.,	October 24	Dallas Mavericks	Dallas, TX
Sat.,	October 25	Houston Rockets	Houston, TX

* All games begin at 7:30 PM (local time).

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Celtics Confidential

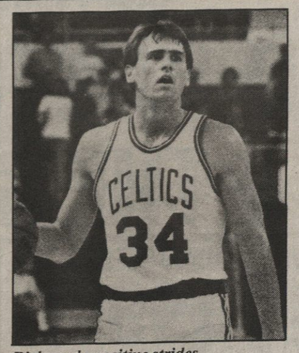
by Bob Schron

A Challenge. Jimmy Rodgers was talking from his home in Walpole Mass. last week about the state of the world champions of 1986. "I know we'll have to lift our play higher this season because teams are always gunning after the team that won the previous season. But that's nothing different. Teams always gun for the Celtics.

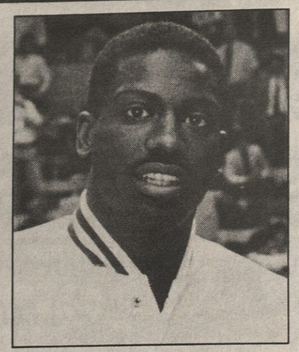
"It's hard to assess the impact of the loss of **Len Bias.** We know he would have added another dimension to our team. But you can't **actively seek** to make moves most times. Problem-solving is an on-going procedure. But if there's a move to make down the line, we'll take the initiative."

The team is faced with a challenge this year, veterans without a draft. It was one of the greatest teams ever last season, winning most games any team has ever won in a single season (82). But as **Mike Carey** of the Boston Herald pointed out in his July 6th column, it is an aging team, also. **Sam Vincent, Danny Ainge,** and **Kevin McHale** represent youth on this team. **Larry Bird** and **Jerry Sichting** turn 30 this year, and **Bill Walton, Robert Parish, Dennis Johnson,** and **Scott Wedman** passed that point long ago.

The challenge is apparent, and the franchise will need to draw together depending on pride, talent, and experience. **Red Auerbach,** president, is the most creative sports executive ever, and Bird is again at work in Indiana, lifting his game higher. According to Bird, the team will be championship caliber as long as Walton remains healthy. There are questions: How can a veteran team improve (athletes now play more effectively longer)? Will Youth win out? Houston now has experience to mix with power and youth. Young teams constantly push and defy veteran quality units. Contributions may come from presently unforeseen sources, from bench players and role type players. To barter for **Jack Sikma** (Seattle) was unlikely after the Henderson 1984 transaction. And there are difficulties when attempting to obtain an M.L. Carr-type player via free agency. If the Celts went hard after, say, **Gus Williams** who is assuredly available, how would Jan Volk fit him in under the salary cap? And why would **GM Bob Ferry** rush in to help old nemesis **K.C. Jones** and the Celtics? But there are role players who could be had (Gus Williams? Carry Scurry? T.R. Dunn?) and Auerbach might need to make a move. Only one would likely do for the short term...**Rick Carlisle** and **Greg Kite** made positive strides in this



Rick made positive strides.



Sam wasn't offered.

stabilizing area last season...According to Carey, one GM felt that the Celtics had little chance of receiving compensation for the loss of Bias, "They are defending champions. When the board of governors meets behind closed doors, no one is going to vote to give the Celtics an extra first round draft choice. It's cold to say in light of what happened, but the fact is business is business."... **George Karl,** new Coach of the Golden State Warriors, commented on the team's decision to draft Chris Washburn, hardship (ligitimate) entry in the draft, "We were in a unique position. We were planning to take a center (It's the position you have to have strength to contend). We want to build a champion, and in the west, you have to go through Houston to win." Asked to compare Washburn to his past "project" in Cleveland, **Mel Turpin,** Karl responded, "Their attitudes on the court are different. Washburn is immature, but he loves to play and he has great drive for the game. Turpin would never accept the responsibility it takes to be an impact team player."...**Fortune** magazine recently rated the worth of professional sports franchises. The Celtics listed as the most valuable basketball team in the league, between $41-55 million...In the recent Goodwill Games, the U.S.S.R. basketball team thought Larry Bird was the best player in the United States. "What impresses us is that Larry Bird is better now than he was in college. He was not regarded as the best then, was he?" asked the Soviet point guard, **Valdis Valters.** "We understand **Magic Johnson** was better. But now Larry Bird is clearly above all the others." (Reported in **USA Today**)...

Former Celtics player and former executive in Milwaukee and Indiana, **Wayne Embry** was named general manager of the Cleveland Cavs. The contract is estimated at $225,000 per season in a four-year deal...NBC's Meet the Press featured **Ralph Sampson** and **Bob Lanier,** former president of the Players' Association on a panel discussing drug usage in sports, July 6... **Barry Weinberg,** trainer of the Oakland A's Baseball Team, met up with friend and former Celtic **Quinn Buckner** when the A's visited Milwaukee in early July. Weinberg was the student trainer of the Indiana University 1974-75 basketball team, the team which featured Buckner at point guard. Buckner has moved back to Milwaukee after thinking about investing in real estate in Indianapolis (He was cut by the Pacers mid-way through last season)...Denver forward **Alex English** is negotiating for a role in the movie "Amazing Grace and Chuck" in which English would play a Boston Celtic... **Bill Russell** was broadcaster in WTBS' Goodwill Games coverage in Spain... **Danny Ainge,** a visitor to the Astrodome during the NBA Finals (Ainge was a teammate of Astros' catcher Alan Ashby in Toronto), attended several Red Sox games early this summer... **Dave Winfield,** Yankees' talented and dynamic outfielder, applauded **Bo Jackson's** decision to play baseball. Winfield was recruited to the University of Minnesota as a collegian by former Celtic head coach **Bill Fitch.** "Playing baseball added years and security to my career," stated Winfield. "It should do the same for Jackson. But he'll have to apply himself totally to succeed in baseball. It's totally up to him."...**Sam Vincent,** the team's 1st-round draft choice in 1985 took part in clinics in East Lansing, Michigan (his home) and Washington D.C. in mid-July... **Johnny Most,** the bard of the team, is hosting a talk show for Sportschannel during the summer (8 p.m. on Thursday nights). Most also has a commentary segment on that network's nightly sports roundup...The Celtics Video Yearbook is currently on sale in video and book stores throughout the greater Boston metropolitan area. **Rick Carlisle** was doing some promotions for the production...

K.C. Jones was signed to do a biography with writer Jack Warner... **Bill Walton** continues to be ecstatic over the team's recent title, the second of his professional career. "It was hard work," he admitted, "but I think about what a pleasant summer this is, and that's what the work is for."... Walton is attracted to the thought that the team might possibly attract a free agent to the team this season, much as he arrived last September... **Sam Vincent** adamantly insists Len Bias was not a consistent user of drugs... Danny Ainge reflected back on last season and his strong play at its end: "People think the turning point was the last game of the season when I was chasing Larry's Free Throw title. But to me, it was the second game of the Chicago playoff series. I felt that I was playing well, but midway through the second half, I hadn't even taken *one* shot. Then, DJ (Dennis Johnson) got into foul trouble, so I was forced to handle the ball and look for my shot. I need to take responsibility out there to make me play my best ball."...**Jimmy Rodgers** denied reports Vincent of- was offered to teams during the collegiate draft.

Following is a list of major vetern free agents as reported by the NBA DURING THE FINAL WEEK OF July. Teams are waiting to see what their respective salary caps are.

Ken Bannister, New York
Otis Birdsong, New Jersey
Dudley Bradley, Washington
Mo Cheeks, Philadelphia
Michael Cooper, Los Angeles
Lester Conner, Golden State
Wayne Cooper, Denver
Terry Cummings, Milwaukee
Walter Davis, Pheonix
T.R. Dunn, Denver
Julius Erving, Philadelphia
Sleepy Floyd, Golden State
Charles Davis, Milwaukee
Eddie Johnson, Sacramento
Caldwell Jones, Portland
Albert King, New Jersey
Cliff Levingston, Atlanta
Tom McMillen, Washington
Perry Moss, Philadelphia
Jim Peterson, Houston
Jahwan Oldham, Chicago
Danny Schayes, Denver
Larry Spriggs, Los Angeles
Carry Scurry, Utah
LaSalle Thompson, Sacramento
Sedale Threatt, Philadelphia
Darnell Valentine, LA Clippers
Kiki Vandeweghe, Portland
Spud Webb, Atlanta
Gerald Wilkens, New York
Gus Williams, Washington
Orlando Woolridge, Chicago

Carlos Clark Trying for Rocket Entry

Carlos Clark knows what it's like to fight against and beat the odds. The left-handed guard from the University of Mississippi was a fourth-round draft choice of the Celtics in 1983, the 91st player overall selected in that draft.

Fourth-round draftees usually have little or no shot at earning a berth on an NBA roster-- many don't even make it past rookie camp.

But Clark did. He won a job with the Celtics, and even though he was used sparingly, lasted with the club two years. Clark was a member of the Celtics 1983-84 NBA title squad as a rookie. He appeared in 62 games the following campaign.

After being let go by the Celtics, Clark is trying to catch on with the defending Western Conference champion Houston Rockets, whom the Celtics beat in the finals several weeks ago. Clark, who had played with the USBL's Tampa Bay team, was in Houston's rookie camp as a free-agent.

Although the Rockets came close to winning the NBA championship in 1986, they aren't a team without weaknesses. They are pretty thin at guard, especially in the point position. Clark figures he can help them out, even though as a free-agent, his chances of making the club aren't overwelming.

"Things went pretty well in the camp," Clark says. "I'm pleased with the way I played." "I decided to go to Houston's camp when I thought they needed backcourt help."

A factor that could operate in Clark's favor is he has been weaned on Celtics principles when it come to basketball. The Rocket coach is Bill Fitch, who piloted the green and whites four years before moving to Texas in 1983.

Clark took part in what he called a "rookie review league," where first-year performers from Denver, Dallas, San Antonio as well as Houston showed up. A handful of free-agents were also invited.

"I think my chances are good," Clark says. "I want to keep a positive approach."

Some players looking for work have been known to jump from one rookie camp to another in search of work. Clark has yet to take that route, but it remains a possibility.

"I don't know," he says. Maybe, maybe not. "I was thinking I'd contact K.C. (Jones, Celtics coach) and talk to him."

"I want to wait until the time comes. Hopefully, I can play good enough to where other teams will see me and want to look at me."

That was exactly Clark's thinking in joining the USBL, a minor league whose season is held during the summer. The league is only in its second year, but has already earned some notoriety for producing Washington Bullets center Manute Bol and Atlanta Hawk Spud Webb, both of whom were two of the NBA's top rookies this past season.

After playing in the NBA for the Celtics, staying in first class hotels, travelling in the best conditions and earning a nice salary, is bopping around in the minors a come-down for Clark?

"You can't say that," Clark says. "The league is very competitive. They're trying to get a good foundation set. Eventually, some good will come out of the league. It keeps my basketball skills sharp."

To Clark, toiling in the USBL was merely a matter of paying his roundball dues.

"I'm looking at it as a way of getting back where I want to be (the NBA)," Clark says. "I'll do whatever it takes to get back to the NBA.

"If I continue to play the way I have been I can do it. Fitch has talked to me about defense-- going out and playing the way I always have."

One would think that Clark would be a veritable bundle of nerves as he attempts to scratch and claw his way back into the NBA. However, that's not the case.

"There's no pressure," he says. "I'm enjoying it. I don't feel any pressure. Having already been in the NBA, I know what I have to do. I know what coaches want out of me. I'm using it to my advantage-- previous experience always helps."

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Can the Celtics Repeat?

The 22 teams in the NBA that take great delight in knocking off the Celtics --or at least trying to do so-- will have even more incentive next year.

That's because the Celtics have the 1985-86 NBA title in their pockets, and everyone wants to do in the number-one gunfighter in town. Around these parts, it's definitely a case of uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.

The Celtics will have plenty of incentive of their own. They will embark on the '86-87 campaign with one goal in mind: keeping the NBA spoils in Boston, repeating as champions.

This achievement has been next-to-impossible to pull off in the NBA. The last team to do it was none other than the Celtics, who strung together back-to-back titles in 1967-68 and 1968-69. Ironically. Boston failed to even make the playoffs following that second title season.

Why is it so hard to repeat in the NBA? For one thing, the season is so grueling, with the 82-game regular year and the seemingly-endless string of playoff games, it's almost impossible to put together two years' worth of title drive consecutively.

Also, teams get even more juiced up for playing the champion than they do for other opponents. Take the New York Knicks, for example-- they had a horrid year, racked by injuries and substandard play, but when they came back from 25 points to beat Boston on Christmas Day, it made their season.

The Celtics seem to be as well-equipped as anyone to repeat as champions. They'll have all the protagonists back and the players are universally dedicated to winning.

But that doesn't mean it'll be easy. When the Celtics begin the trek toward a possible second world title, they will come against some stiff opposition. And just who might that be? Let's find out?...

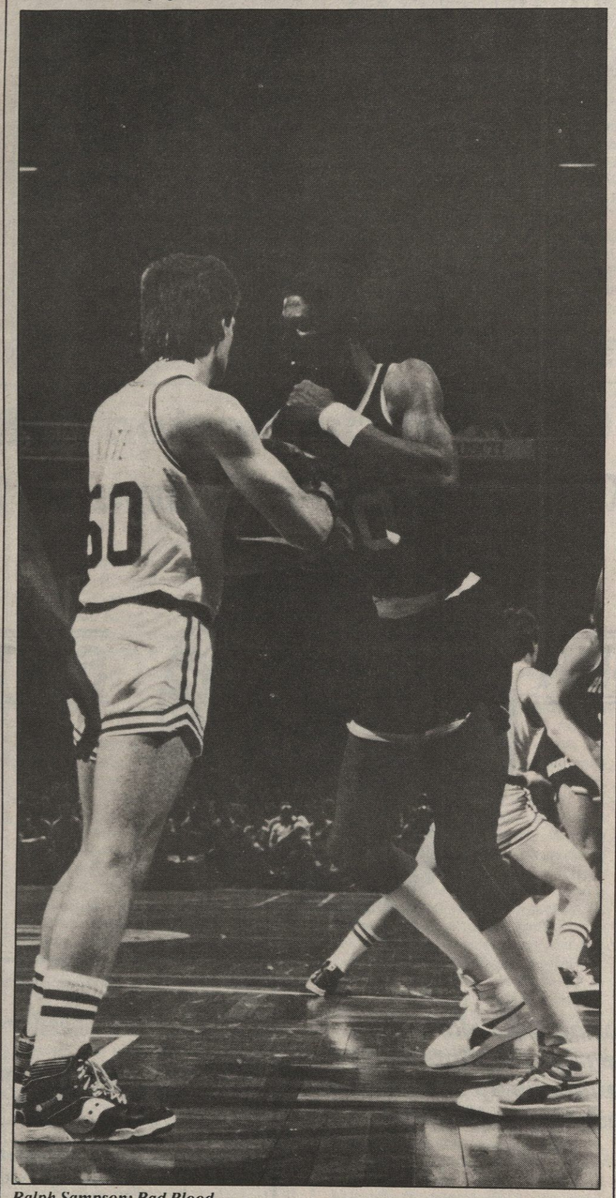
HOUSTON ROCKETS: The Ralph Sampson-Jerry Sichting brawl caused bad blood between the teams which may last for quite a while, but you'd better believe the Rockets caught the Celtics attention and have their respect.

The Rockets have a strong and young frontcourt in Akeem Olajuwon, Sampson, Rodney McCray and Jim Petersen, and these guys will get better. Houston's weakness lies in the backcourt, where they don't have a pure point guard. Drafting Alabama forward Buck Johnson as a first-round pick is quite baffling, but it should serve to add to Houston's frontline. Don't be surprised if Houston makes a trade for a guard before long.

The Rockets showed they could rock and roll with Celtics-- playing physical ball. In today's NBA, finesse just doesn't seem to cut it anymore.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS: Despite Magic, Kareem and James Worthy, the Lakers will probably come up short unless they get a couple of bangers. LA is hopeful Notre Dame's Ken Barlow can help them out in this regard, and Billy Thompson should fit in nicely with Pat Riley's running game.

Abdul-Jabbar hasn't shown any signs of slowing down and Johnson hasn't lost any of his enthusiasm, meaning the Lakers will always be a threat. This is truely a great team-despite their losing to Houston in five games in the Western Conference finals.



Ralph Sampson: Bad Blood.

ATLANTA HAWKS: The Celtics made short work of the Hawks in the playoffs, but this could very well be the NBA team of the future. The Hawks have three 7-footers who can play (Kevin Willis, Jon Koncak, Tree Rollins) and flashy, high-scoring forward in Dominque Wilkins and strong backcourt. The addition of Mike McGee--acquired in a trade from the Lakers, gives the Hawks someone who can score plenty of points from guard or forward. McGee has never really had a legitimate chance to show what he can do, he will get that opportunity in Georgia.

Another plus for the Hawks is Mike Fratello, one of the brightest young coaches in the league.

PHILADELPHIA 76ers: Remember them? The Celtics foremost Altantic Division rival will have a new look in 1986-87. Out went Moses Malone and Terry Catledge, in came Jeff Ruland, Cliff Robinson and Roy Hinson. The Sixers acquired the latter by trading the league's top pick (which turned out to be Brad Daugherty of North Carolina).

Will the Sixers be better next year? At least one person thinks not.

"In Philadelphia, they will have a problem with chemistry and playing time," Red Auerbach says. "I'm not convinced this (the Malone trade to Washington) is a good move for either team."

WASHINGTON BULLETS– The Bullets have been tepid recently. But will Malone change them into a power? Moses seems to think he can.

"I'm glad to be coming to a great organization, not like the one in Philadelphia," Malone says. "I figure Harold (Katz, 76er owner) traded me to an East Coast team because he's very cocky. He says I'm not as good as I used to be. But now he's got to face me six times and I intend to prove him wrong.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS– Don Nelson's squad has been close to the top several years now, but has failed to get over the hump. The acquistion of Jack Sikma from Seattle gives them a premier center, which should make Milwaukee a complete team. Considering Nelson's coaching savvy, the Bucks might be the team to look for next year.

DENVER NUGGETS: Doug Moe's run-and-gun hit squad showed they could play with anybody and they should continue to be a factor in the league. Top draftee Mark Alarie will help considerably on the boards.

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Bill Walton Got What He Wanted

Bill Walton got exactly what he wanted out of his first year with the Boston Celtics.

The veteran red-head was acquired from the Los Angeles Clippers in exchange for Cedric Maxwell in a complicated deal last summer. Walton took a massive cut in salary to come to Beantown, but that was academic to him. All he wanted was a chance to be on a World Championship team.

Walton was a key factor in the Portland Trailblazers championship season of 1976-77. However, he had been plagued by injuries and poor clubs up until the recently concluded season.

Walton proved he was far from washed up by being one of the most effective reserves in the NBA. His play off the bench helped make the Celtics' 16th NBA title possible.

Now that it's summer, Walton, who is back home in the San Diego area, is away from the rigors of the NBA. But he is still enjoying his championship. At a celebrity tennis tournament near San Diego in July, Walton was introduced to the crowd.

"That's Bill Walton of the world champion Boston Celtics," he added with a smile. Clearly, that sentence has a nice ring to it.

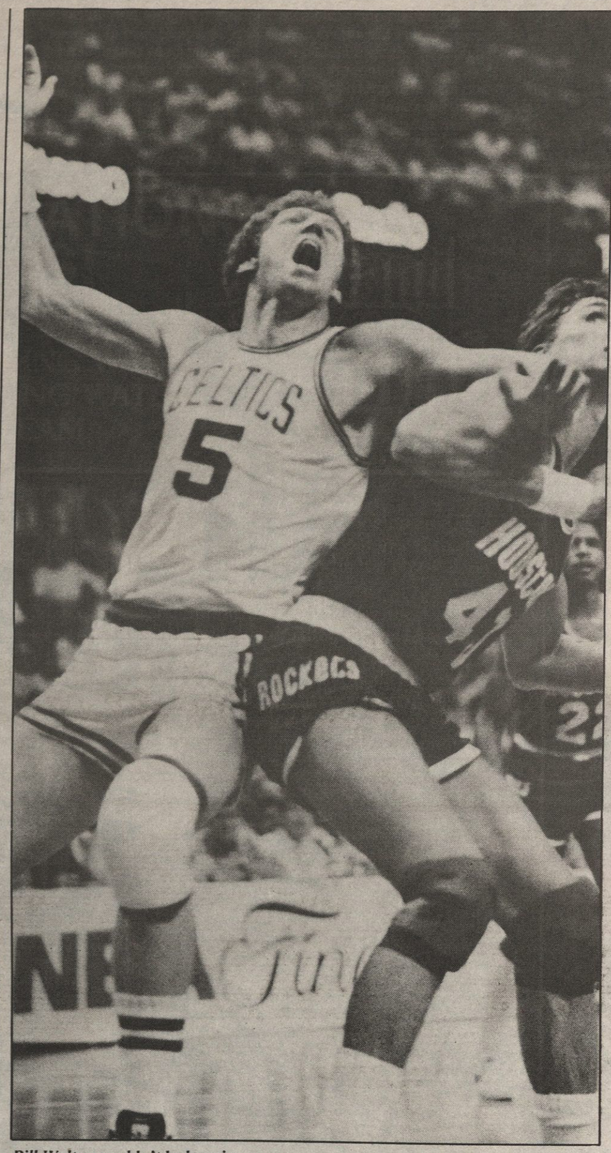
Along with other ex- and current professional athletes, Walton was involved in the tournament, the highlight of which saw the athletes get dressed up in clown outfits as part of a comedy revue.

It's summertime and the living is easy for the 6-11 forward/center. "We're back in San Diego now," Walton said. "We're going to the beach a lot, playing a lot of tennis, just enjoying ourselves."

Coming to Boston was quite a culture shock for Walton and his wife Susan, both of whom are native Southern Californians. They had never been exposed to the bitter winters of the East, while they were probably cold and shivering on more than a few occassions, they found their new surroundings quite palatable. That's what being a member of a world champion team can do for you.

"I'm more appreciative of my situation after being so far down, so far out," Walton said. "It's an unbelievable feeling being world champions. We're just glad to be there."

Also gratifying to Walton was his good health. For the first time in his 12-year career, Walton had no injuries. His foot problems which plagued him so much for so long weren't evident in the least. Much of that has to do with how Walton was used by Coach K.C. Jones. Walton filled in for Kevin McHale and Robert Parish here and there, averaging about 20 minutes a night. No one expects him to go the distance every time out.



Bill Walton couldn't be happier.

"I feel really good about playing in the future." Walton said. "It's a great situation for me. Playing behind Parish and McHale, two of the most durable athletes in the NBA. I've proven I can't play the big minutes over the full course of the season. I've also proven that if my minutes are watched, I can produce. I'm looking forward to playing for a long time." I never got worn down from playing too much."

Despite his past injuries, Walton has always prided himself on his conditon. Just because the NBA season is over, that doesn't mean he's going to be a couch potato all summer.

"I do sports because I like them," Walton said. "Some of my summertime sports are different from my wintertime sports. In the winter, I basically play basketball and do a little cycling to stay loose and keep toned up. In the summer, I do it all-- a lot of tennis, a lot of beach volleyball, a lot of weightlifting, basketball. I just go out and play and have a good time."

"The last three summers, I've been able to enjoy myself. I haven't had to have any operations. I haven't had to do any major therapy. I wish it had been like that all the time."

Can Walton become basketball's version of Phil Niekro-- an ageless wonder? According to Larry Bird, if the Celtics are to keep the title in Boston, they must have a healthy Walton. But Walton says, "I'm just happy to be there. It's not going to be one guy. Everybody has to play well. You can't win in the NBA without everybody playing well."

Walton, a member of two NCAA championship teams while at UCLA, has always wanted to play for the Celtics. He said that the Cleveland Cavaliers were interested in him last summer, but when it became evident that joining the Celtics was a serious possibility, he knew there was only one team to which to go.

"You never lose that dream of playing for the championship," Walton said. "That's why all of us keep playing," Right here at this tournament last year was where the negotiations first started. Every day we were here, we were talking with the Celtics. Unfortunately, it took all summer, but it was worth it."

Sometimes, the anticipation can exceed the event. But this wasn't the case concerning Walton joining the Celtics.

The Celtics are very much like UCLA in terms of its organization, it's emphasis, it's treatment of its athletes," Walton said. "It's first class all the way. It's everything I'd hoped professional basketball would be."

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of Walton's first year with the Celtics was the influence it has had on his four sons.

"It was very good for them to see the positive side of sports," Walton said. "Enthusiasm of fans, a well-run organization, a team dedicated to winning, seeing Bill Russell and John Havlicek coming around to practice and meeting them. As a parent, that's very important to me, their seeing the positive side."

Walton is feeling pretty positive these days.

"I'm going to enjoy this summer a lot," he said. "We really worked hard all year. Last summer was such a bummer with all the ups and downs trying to be traded."

The 1985-86 season was hardly a bummer to Walton.

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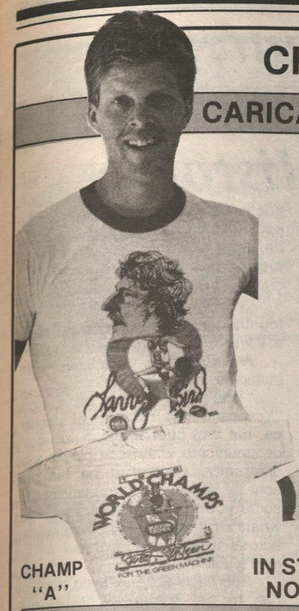

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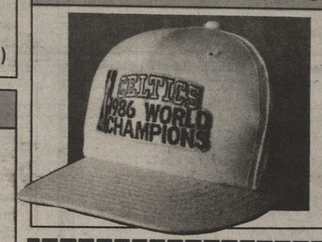

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Celtics Greats

The Best Coach in Basketball History

Prior to Red Auerbach joining the Celtics as head coach in 1960, there was no such thing as Celtics pride. Tradition? Any basketball tradition in Boston was associated with the Holy Cross college team. That wasn't much to begin with, since the hockey Boston Bruins were far and away the top dogs in town.

"When I came to Boston, it was hostile to basketball," said Auerbach, who had been coach of the Washington Capitols and TriCities. "It was hockey first, the Garden, the town, the whole region."

No wonder. The Celtics weren't a very good team in those days, which didn't help draw the interest of those foreign to the game.

"Our biggest problem was to educate the public about basketball in general and professional basketball in particular. I knocked myself out during the preseason. We played exhibition games throughout the region, giving clinics the morning of the game, wherever we were playing."

Even though Auerbach was a relative unknown in those days, he was as brash and outspoken as he is today. There was pressure from fans and local media for the Celtics to draft and sign local college players, but Auerbach refused to succumb to it.

Auerbach: Roundball's reigning genius.

Auerbach showed them who was boss in his very first press conference. The media wanted to know why Boston product Tony Lavelli didn't fit into the Celtics plans and why he hadn't drafted Bob Cousy. Fed up with the questioning, Auerbach turned to owner Walter Brown and said in voice loud enough for everyone to hear: "Walter, am I supposed to win or am I supposed to worry about the local yokels and please these guys?"

No one questions anything Auerbach does these days. Thirty-six years and 16 NBA championships later, Auerbach is considered a genuis in basketball annals. That term may be overused, but it fits Auerbach perfectly.

In 20 years as an NBA coach Auerbach compiled a record of 938-479 and piloted nine championship clubs. He has been president of the club since 1970, and obviously has a large hand in basketball decisions within the organization. The game has changed vastly since Auerbach first came to Boston, but Auerbach remains a couple of steps ahead of everyone else in the hoop business.

He proved his astuteness bach in 1956, when he wheeled and dealed his way to gettting a center from the University of San Francisco center by the name of Bill Russell. Auerbach had turned the Celtics from a patsy to playoff team, but they were still missing an ingredient needed to be great. Auerbach looked at Russell as that missing piece.

"Before Russell joined us, I had scorers like Cousy and Sharman, guys who could put the ball in the hole, but you can't win without the ball. I needed a guy to get me the ball. I needed a guy to get the ball, something (Ed) Macauley couldn't do.

"Ed was a shooting center weak on defense because he only weighed 180 pounds. He took a beating and would run out of gas."

"I wanted somebody bigger. Russell was a great, great rebounder and I knew he was the guy we desperately needed. Of course, he turned out to be what I expected and more, the greatest of them all."

When it comes to basketball minds, Auerbach is the greatest of them all. What makes Auerbach so great is he has stayed with the times without sacrificing his basic principles. The latter are the same today as they were in 1950.

"You've got to give them (the players) leadership." Auerbach said. "My people know, number one, that I'd go to bat for them on and off the court. They knew that in return all I wanted was their maximum effort. And I always explained to them. Hey, you don't win for me, you win for you.

"We always accomplished things together. Without being sloppy about it. It was family."

And family members must communicate.

"That's vital," Auerbach says. "You can't have two sets of standards, but that doesn't mean you don't communicate with each player a bit differently, depending on his personality. Some guys you whisper to, some you talk to, some you yell at--whatever it takes to get the message across to get the most out of the man's abilities."

Auerbach also believes a coach has to get the most of his own abilities.

"One of the biggest mistakes a coach can make is over-expose his voice, particularly if he's been coach over a long period of time and has had the same personnel. The players can get sick of that voice. Another big potential pitfall is over coaching, you've got to keep it simple, because basketball is a simple game.

Sometimes I see some coaches pull out a clipboard at a crucial timeout late in the game. How can you design something in a matter of seconds an execute it successfully when you haven't put it together in all the hours of practice all season?"

Auerbach has engineered some major coups over the years. It was he who picked Larry Bird as an undergraduate eligible in 1978, knowing full well that Bird had no intention of leaving school. The following year, Bird was ready for delivery, and the Celtics scooped him up.

It was Auerbach who made a trade with the Golden State Warriors, enabling them to pick up Robert Parish and Kevin McHale. It was also Auerbach who traded Rick Robey to the Suns for Dennis Johnson, a guard who helped to stabilize the team.

In the past Auerbach has picked up veteran players like Don Nelson, Paul Silas and Wayne Embry, making them useful components when they seemed to be washed up.

Yes, Auerbach is no longer on the Celtics bench, lighting his famous victory cigars after wins, but he remains very much a fulcrum of the franchise. The mark he has made on the Celtics, the NBA and sports in general is indelible.

"Red Auerbach was the best coach in the history of professional sports" Russell once said.

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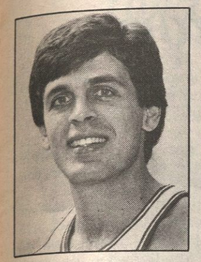


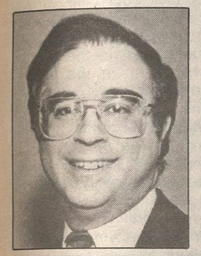
Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale on mandatory testing to check possible drug usage by players in the NBA: "The hell with the players' association on this particular issue. They should be trying to help players rather then being concerned about protecting them from getting caught.

"Len Bias' tragedy was a rude awakening. Death sneaks up on you. We have to do something to decrease the chances of something like this occuring again. Lenny's death should make the players' union see that the best thing it can do for players is to go along with the league and take the toughest stand possible on drug use."

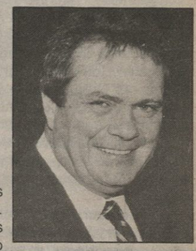
Red Auerbach

Red Auerbach commenting on the trades of the Philadelphia 76ers which transferred Moses Malone for Roy Hinson, Jeff Ruland, and Cliff Robinson (Hinson through Cleveland for the Sixers' Number One selection in the draft): "In Philadelphia, they may have problems with chemistry and playing time. I'm not convinced that is a good move for any of the teams."



Jan Volk

Jan Volk states his view on the Celtics chances if they maintain their present roster heading into the 1986-87 season: To win again will be an even more difficult task because as defending champions we will be the prime target for everyone in the league. It must also be considered that there have been a number of major trades involving our prime competitors in our conference--- Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Washington. It remains to be seen how much they will benefit although it appears they have all improved."



Tommy Heinsohn

Tommy Heinsohn gives his judgment about the chances of the Los Angeles Lakers for the upcoming season: "I think we've seen the last of the LA Lakers. It was inconceivable to me that a 39-year old guy (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) was not tested physically during the season but the Rockets finally caught up to him in the playoffs."

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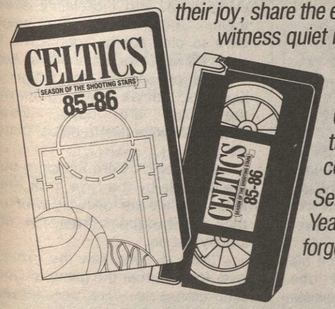

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Celtics Classics

The Wildest Moment in Celtics History

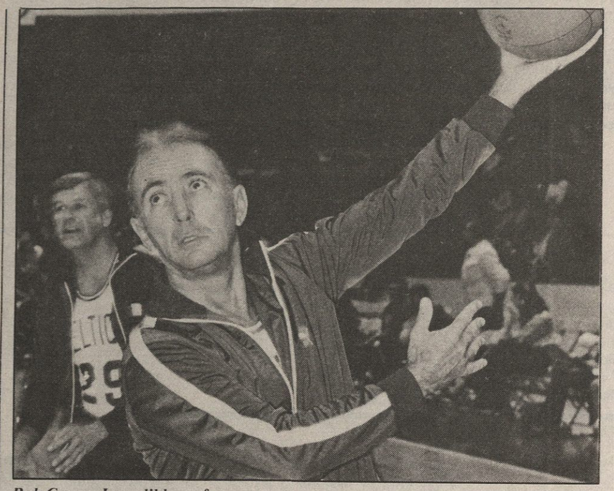
The wildest moment in Boston Celtics history? It could very well have been March 21, 1953. On this Saturday afternoon at the Garden, the Celtics registered a 111-105 playoff win over the Syracuse Nationals.

The contest saw:

Bob Cousy scored 50 points, 25 of them in overtime, even though a thigh pull rendered him barely able to walk. Cousy, who played 66 of the 68 minutes, connected on 30 of 32 free throws, including 18 in a row.

Fourteen of the game's 20 players banished from the game. A dozen performers fouled out --- two more (Dolph Scahyes and Bob Brannum) were tossed for fighting. Three fouled out Nats and one Celtic were allowed to return, so that the teams could have enough players to field a quintet on the floor. The opposition was awarded an extra free throw when a disqualified player committed a foul.

Three hours and 11 minutes went before everything was said and done.



Bob Cousy: Incredible performance.

Publicist Howie McHugh passed out from severe headaches, brought on by the game's tension. Meanwhile, owner Walter Brown couldn't take it, either, so left his seat and spent the rest of the afternoon pacing

It didn't take long for the mania to unfold on the Garden floor before 11,058 fans who attended. Early in the second quarter, Brannum and Schayes exchanged punches. A riot nearly broke out when two Syracuse players, Paul Seymour and Billy Gabor, tried to challenge a squad of Boston police who'd come on the floor to quiet things down.

Of course, the fight didn't make the game a happening, but it did spice things up considerably.

"It has to rank as one of the most exciting games ever, although not the most artistic," McHugh once said. "There were an awful lot of whistles (107 fouls).

"What a thriller, though. Cooz's performance has to be the most incredible I've ever ssen by one guy. He was just unbelievable, putting the ball in from everywhere, including midcourt. And it wasn't just 50 points, it was 50 pressure points. Of his last points in regulation and the 25 he got in overtime, all except the final couple were crucial. If he doesn't make them, we lose. It was the greatest performance I have ever seen in the clutch."

Of course, Cousy didn't limit his clutch performances to that one game. He led the league in assists that season with a 7.7 average and was third in scoring with 19.8 a game. Cousy led the Celtics to a fine 46-25 record and a third-place finish in the East.

"Cooz was doing things with the basketball that no one had ever seen before," Red Auerbach said.

Cousy did plenty during this wild afternoon on Causeway Street, even thought he could barely walk. He sank three free throws in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter to tie the game at 77-77 and force the first overtime.

In the third overtime Cousy scored six of Boston's eight points. His free throw with a second left tied the game at 86-86. In the second overtime, his layup in the closing second tied the game at 90-90.

Overtime three: The Celtics got the ball with 13 seconds left and were trailing by five points. Things were looking pretty bleak until Cousy went to work. He made a basket and three point play within five seconds to cause another overtime.

The tying basket went like this. A National inbounds pass deep in the Syracuse frontcourt was knocked around and Cousy came up with it. He crossed midcourt and flung a running one hander toward the basket. Two points at the buzzer. Tie game.

In the fourth overtime, Cousy wasn't done yet. Syracuse was up by five again, but five free throws and two baskets by Cousy represented nine of Boston's 12 points and the Celtics were finally able to pull it out. Oh yes, Cousy had a key steal as well.

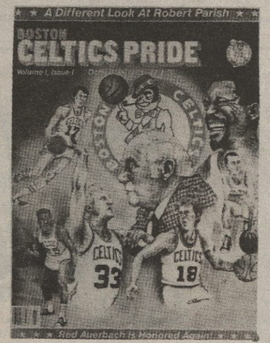
"He's the guy who did it, just that one kid," Syracuse player/coach Al Cervi said. "What a player, he's the best." Cousy had another bit of adversity working against him besides the bad leg. He had five fouls and had to be careful so as not to join the ranks of the banished.

"There was a prayer going with every shot, and I certainly needed them," Cousy said. "I don't want to have to play another game like that again. Boy, it's too much. I was lucky.

"People said we couldn't win the big ones, that we haven't got it when the chips are down. Beating Syracuse twice has to dispel that talk for good."

The Celtics were knocked out of the playoffs by the New York Knicks in four games the following week. But that didn't detract from the show Cousy put on.

"Nobody who saw the game will ever forget either the game or Cooz," Auerbach said. "He was fabulous, just fabulous."



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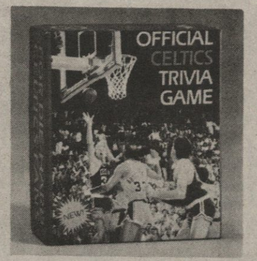

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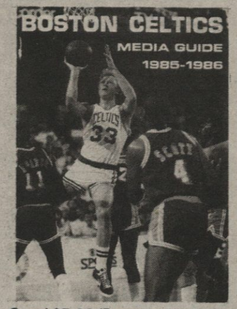

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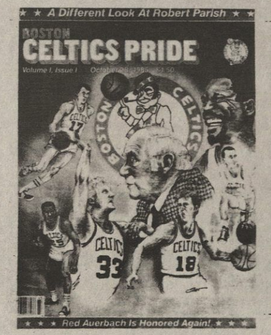

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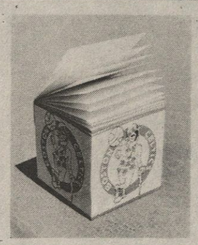

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